4

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</u>	Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.



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Photo 1. Representative mowed field, looking south from Vermont Rt. 17, VELCO New Haven Operation Facility, August 9, 2018, Stantec.



Photo 2. Typical tree hedge row looking east towards the Study Area edge, VELCO New Haven Operation Facility, August 9, 2018, Stantec. Note potential suitable snag outline in red.



Photo 3. Access road to Study Area and adjacent substation from Rt. 17, VELCO New Haven Operation Facility, August 9, 2018, Stantec.



Photo 4. Scrub hedge separating existing laydown yard from mowed field, looking west, VELCO New Haven Operation Facility, August 9, 2018, Stantec.



Photo 5. Mowed field looking northeast, photo taken adjacent to wet meadow NH-203, VELCO New Haven Operation Facility, August 9, 2018, Stantec.



Photo 6. Wetland NH-203, VELCO New Haven Operation Facility, November 1, 2017, Stantec.



Photo 7. Ephemeral stream NH-204, VELCO New Haven Operation Facility, November 1, 2017, Stantec.



Notes 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Vermont FIPS 4400 Feet 2. Data Sources: VELCO, Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VGGI) 3. Background: VCGI Color Imagery Web Mapping Service

Woody Wetlands

New Haven Operations Facility

Figure No. **1** . ^{Title} Location Map

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APPENDIX A: PHASE 1 HABITAT ASSESSMENTS

INDIANA BAT HABITAT ASSESSMENT DATASHEET

Project Name: Proposed VELCO New Haven

Date: 8/9/2019

Township/Range/Section: New Haven, Vermont

Surveyor: Eben Baker

Lat Long/UTM/ Zone: 44.121482, -73.163018 - NAD83

Brief Project Description

The proposed Project would serve as VELCO's backup control and data center, consisting of a two-story building and supporting services (wastewater and potable water systems), power transforms, backup emergency generators, chillers, a chain link security fence, driveway, parking lot, and permanent stormwater management system.

Project Area				
	Total Acres	Forest Acres		Open Acres
Project	4.2	1.25		2.95
Proposed Tree	Completely cleared	Partially cleared (will leave trees)	Preserve acres- no clearing	
Removal (ac)	1.25	0	0	

Vegetation Cover Types	
Pre-Project	Post-Project
Predominantly comprised of open meadow with a few tree rows extending through the center and along the western, southern, and southeastern boundaries. Mid successional forest with trees predominantly < 9 inches DBH	The post-Project vegetation cover type will be largely the same due to tree plantings to occur around the periphery of the Project following completion of construction.

Landscape within 5 mile radius	
Flight corridors to other forested areas?	Flight corridor connectivity is limited as the Project site occurs within open agricultural (pasture/hay) fields.
Describe Adjacent Properties (e.g. fores	ted, grassland, commercial or residencial development, water sources)
The adjacent properties primarily consist of residential developments, and Vermont Sta	agricultural fields, electrical transmission components (transmission line/substation), te Route 17.
Proximity to Public Land	

What is the distance (mi.) from the project area to forested public lands (e.g., national or state forests, national or state parks, conservation areas, wildlife management areas)?

Green Mountain National Forest land is located approximately 4.6 miles to the west.

APPENDIX A: PHASE 1 HABITAT ASSESSMENTS

Use additional sheets to assess discrete habitat types at multiple sites in a project area Include a map depicting locations of sample sites if assessing discrete habitats at multiple sites in a project area A single sheet can be used for multiple sample sites if habitat is the same

Sample Site Descript	tion				
Sample Site No.(s): <u>1</u>	New Hav	ven Operations Fac	cility - approximately	/ 4.2-acres including adjacent tree hedgerows	
Water Resources at	Sample Site	1			
Stream Type	Ephemeral	Intermittent	Perennial	Describe existing condition of water	
(# and length)	1 - 71 ft	0	0	sources:	
Pools/Ponds	0	Open and accessible to bats?		Wet meadow between hedgerow	
(# and size)	0	1	A	with seasonal high water table - no	
Wetlands	Permanent	Seasonal		surface water observed	
(approx. ac.)		0.5			
Forest Resources at Sample Site					
Closure/Density	Canopy (> 50 ') 0	Midstory (20-50') 2	Understory (<20') 5	1=1-10%, 2=11-20%, 3=21-40%, 4=41-60%, 5=61-80%, 6=81=100%	
Dominant Species of Mature Trees	Red maple, sugar maple, eastern white pine, poplar species (Populus sp.)				
% Trees w/ Exfoliating Bark	0%				
Size Composition of	Small (3-8 in)	Med (9-15 in)	Large (>15 in)		
Live Trees (%)	75	25	0	1	
No. of Suitable Snag	s	1		4	
Standing dead trees w	vith exfoliating bar	k, cracks, crevices, c	or hollows. Snags		

without these characteristics are not considered suitable.

IS THE HABITAT SUITABLE FOR INDIANA BATS? Potentially but low suitability

Additional Comments: Low habitat suitability due to relatively disconnected nature of forested hedge rows within the Project Site, lack of trees with exfoliating bark, and limited number of suitable snags.

Attach aerial photo of project site with all forested areas labeled and a general description of the habitat

Photographic Documentation: habitat shots at edge and interior from multiple locations; understory/midstory/canopy; examples of potential suitable snags and live trees; water sources

